

Application No. 10/677332
Amendment dated 24 October 2005
Reply to Office Action of 28 June 2005

Page 17 of 20

REMARKS

Claims 1-26 and 28 to 54 are pending.

Compliance with 35 U.S.C. §112

The Office Action objects to claim 47. The Applicant submits that claim 47 is correct as originally worded. Claim 47 has been punctuated for enhanced clarity.

Claim 52 is amended to recite a memory as described, for example, in paragraph [0075].

Claim 50 is supported in the Specification at paragraph [0074].

The claims have been amended for clarity. The Applicant submits that the amended claims satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112.

Compliance with 35 U.S.C. §103

The Office Action cites the combination of Kinoe (US 6,337,300) and Priem et al. (4,958,146) either alone or in larger combinations in relation to all of the claims. The Applicant submits that the combination proposed in the Office Action would not yield methods or apparatus according to the claims.

Applicant draws the Examiner's attention to the fact that claim 1 recites that the "selected graphic object to be highlighted" is present in both the base graphic raster and in the selection graphic raster. Claim 1 recites that the base graphic raster comprises "at least one graphic object including a selected graphic object to be highlighted" and also that the selection graphic data includes "a graphic object corresponding to the selected graphic object". This permits objects in the base graphic raster to be highlighted by compositing without requiring the base graphic raster to be regenerated.

The Office Action observes that Kinoe discloses highlighting objects and Priem et al. discloses multiple raster graphics planes. The Office Action proposes that each object could be in its own layer and that one such layer could be called a base graphics layer. If this were done, however, the selected graphic object would not be present in both the base graphic raster and in the selection graphic raster, as claimed. Nor would there be any motivation to do so since Kinoe explicitly provides a mechanism (e.g. highlight attribute 217) for

Application No. 10/677332
Amendment dated 24 October 2005
Reply to Office Action of 28 June 2005

Page 18 of 20

highlighting any selected object. The Office Action points out in several locations (e.g. p. 20, ln. 10) that in the Kinoe apparatus one would simply update graphical objects in the reference plane. If one did this, there would be no need to perform "compositing the base graphic raster and the selection graphic raster to yield an output graphic raster for display" as recited in claim 1.

For these reasons, the Applicant submits that claim 1 patentably distinguishes the combination of Kinoe and Priem et al. Claims 2 to 51 depend from claim 1 and distinguish the cited references for at least this reason.

Claims 52 and 53 also recite that the selected object is included in the base graphic raster and that the selection graphic raster includes a graphic object corresponding to the selected graphic object. Therefore, claims 52 and 53 are submitted to distinguish the cited references for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

The Applicant disagrees with the reasons for rejection of the dependent claims set out in the Office Action. The additional cited references fail to remedy the deficiencies of the underlying Kinoe/Priem combination. For brevity, the following comments address only selected issues.

Mukherjee (applied to Claims 2 and 3)

The Office Action cites the three-way combination of Kinoe, Priem and Mukherjee (US 6,664,971) in relation to claims 2 and 3. The Applicant submits that Mukherjee fails to remedy the above-noted defects of the Kinoe/Priem combination.

Mukherjee, as understood, discloses rendering the same graphic object multiple times using different texture samples and combining the results in a frame buffer (see Fig. 3). Even if one did decide to use the Mukherjee methods to display textured objects in the context of Kinoe, one would still presumably highlight objects by turning on or off highlight attribute (217) for the object (Kinoe - col. 10, ln. 8). The combination would not provide "compositing the base graphic raster and the selection graphic raster to yield an output graphic raster for display" as recited in claim 1.

Application No. 10/677332
Amendment dated 24 October 2005
Reply to Office Action of 28 June 2005

Page 19 of 20

Goodwin (Applied to claims 32 and 34)

Goodwin discloses dividing an image to be processed into two separate images. The Office Action suggests that this constitutes "replicating" the image. This is incorrect. Only parts of the original high dynamic range image having brightnesses in a first range are included in a first of the images. Only parts of the original high dynamic range image having brightnesses in a second range are included in a second of the images.

Even if one did decide to use Goodwin's rendering method in combination with Kinoe / Priem one would still not have the claimed invention. Any particular object could be in Goodwin's first image, Goodwin's second image, or partly in Goodwin's first image and partly in Goodwin's second image depending upon its brightness.

The Applicant requests reconsideration and allowance of this application in light of the foregoing amendments and remarks.

Respectfully submitted,

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Abstract of the Disclosure

Methods and apparatus are provided for highlighting one or more selected objects in a raster image. A rasterizer renders base graphics data containing a plurality of graphic objects to produce a base graphic raster. When a user selects object(s), selection graphic data is generated. The selection graphic data includes a selected graphic object corresponding to the object(s) to be highlighted in the base graphic data. The rasterizer renders the selection graphics data to yield a selection graphic raster. The selection graphic raster and the base graphic raster are composited to yield a graphic raster for display wherein the selected object(s) are highlighted.